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## Letter from Curt Benedict to William Langer Regarding the Internment of Richard Auras, 1946

Curt Benedict

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Curt Benedict  
55 Borica Street  
San Francisco, California

February 26th, 1946.

Honorable William Langer  
United States Senator  
Washington, D. C.

Attn.: Honorable William Langer

Dear Sir:

Please allow me the privilege of addressing you in reference to the matter of RICHARD AURAS, internee at Fort Lincoln, Bismarck, North Dakota.

Said Internee received a writing dated July 23rd, 1945, Washington, D. C., "Notice of Determination of Repatriation of Alien Enemy." The Alien Enemy Repatriation Hearing Board have for many months past concluded a Repatriation Hearing and their findings and recommendations have been forwarded to the U. S. Attorney General - result unknown to said internee. Now comes notice of closing the Camp at Bismarck and all Alien Enemy being transferred, presumably to New York. Upon said notice the internee has asked his sister, Mrs. Selma Benedict and myself to assist him in this matter, sincerely assuring you of his great desire and hope to stay in this Country and become a naturalized citizen of the United States. True, he did not up to the time of internment become a citizen of the United States, due to Immigration Law he was not yet eligible. But by filing his declaration of intention, he renounced his former allegiance, and thereby loses all protection of the foreign state, which makes his status that of a legal resident of the United States, and guarantees the right of our Constitution.

Enclosed a true copy of Petition and Affidavit sent to the Hon. Alien Enemy Repatriation Hearing Board, a copy of "Rights of Aliens" - Opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States by Hon. Justice Murphy; and a copy of notice of closing camp Lincoln by acting Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, Mr. F. B. Shoemaker, Philadelphia, Penn.

The hearings were held before a three-men board, whose members were appointed by the Attorney General. Counsel was allowed merely to sit in as a friend and as a silent observer, lacking all rights to influence the proceedings. Only a few minutes were devoted to the hearing and the defendant was not given the opportunity to defend himself successfully, no jury or witnesses allowed. All statements given by the defendant were taken under oath.

May I say with respect to such Gentlemen as the Hon. Lloyd George, Hon. W. S. Churchill, many other high foreign officials as well as of our own United States Government, on their return from an extensive visit through National Socialist Germany, they greatly praised the work and conditions in Germany; thereby arousing the national feelings of Americans of german descent as well as of German aliens, future citizens alike. Like the English, the Irish, the Skandinavians, like the Poles and French, we too, are apt to feel pride toward the country of our birth.

Yes, war hysteria has done much injustice, but we feel confident that matters will rightfully straighten themselves out as soon as normal conditions are restored. Justice can only be served if the seed of truth makes mutual understanding, honor and faith possible. I respectfully appeal to your great sense of fairness and justice to assist us in this matter for equal rights and help for a Congressional inquiry, to establish true facts, thereby preventing the repatriation of Richard Auras.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

*Curt Benedict.*

Curt Benedict.

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